

THE BICYCLE SUMMIT



Louisville Mayor Jerry E. Abramson hosted the first-ever regional Bicycle Summit in February 2005. Two hundred people attended, including elected officials, community leaders, cyclists, professionals and other citizens.

The goal of the Bicycle Summit was to develop strategies to guide the Louisville region in creating safe and sustainable bicycling facilities and programs

to improve community health, air quality and tourism.

As a result of discussions in breakout sessions covering the areas of on-road facilities, trails, programs (safety, advocacy, enforcement) and policy, the Summit created a vision for a bicycle-friendly Louisville and established a set of goals and a timeline for achieving them.

SHORT-TERM GOALS, 1 - 12 MONTHS

- Create Bike Summit follow-up Task Force **DONE!**
- Community cycling events/festival **DONE!**
- Safe biking demo corridor **IN PROGRESS!**
- Revamp bicycle routes map
- Adopt a bicycle-pedestrian & greenways master plan
- Maintenance accountability **IN PROGRESS!**
- Promote "Bike to Work" and Olmsted Parks tour **DONE!**

MID-TERM GOALS, 1 - 5 YEARS

- Ohio River Greenway **HALFWAY THERE!**
- Olmsted Parks and Parkway **IN PROGRESS!**
- Cross-town and North-South routes **IN PROGRESS!**
- Striping and signage **IN PROGRESS!**
- Information clearinghouse **DONE!**
- Complete streets policy **IN PROGRESS!**
- Funding equity campaign **IN PROGRESS!**
- Education programs **IN PROGRESS!**
- Eliminate major road impediments

LONG-TERM GOALS, 5 YEARS PLUS

- VeloPark
- Complete network of bicycle roads and paths
- Bike-ped access to new bridges **DONE!**



BICYCLE FRIENDLY LOUISVILLE

A set of well-defined goals was established by the Louisville Bicycle Summit, and a Bicycle Task Force was created to develop a plan to implement the Summit's recommendations.

In December 2005, the Task Force met with Mayor Jerry E. Abramson to give him an update on its activities, to make certain the Task Force was on the right track and to obtain the mayor's commitment to specific action plans. Several Louisville cabinet secretaries and department heads also attended the briefing.

With the League of American Bicyclists' Bicycle Friendly Community Campaign guidelines in mind, the Bicycle Task Force has devised the plan for **Bicycle Friendly Louisville**, an initiative that will guide Louisville Metro government in implementing the recommendations of the Bicycle Summit. The recommendations range from enhancements to existing roads and paths to creating cycling events and developing awareness campaigns in five areas:

**Encouragement, Education, Engineering,
Enforcement and Evaluation.**

HOW WILL WE KNOW WE HAVE ARRIVED?

Louisville will achieve the following Bicycle Friendly Community designations by the League of American Bicyclists.

BRONZE BY 2008

SILVER BY 2010

GOLD BY 2014



HISTORY OF BICYCLING IN LOUISVILLE



Louisville has a rich, national bicycling history. The heyday of cycling was in the 1890's when people from every walk of life enjoyed bicycling. The annual convention and racing meeting of the League of American Wheelmen drew 30,000 members to Louisville in 1896. The next year, 10,000 cyclists participated in a bicycle parade from Broadway to Iroquois Park. On a July day in 1897, 2,836 people were counted riding bicycles to work in downtown Louisville.



A national cycling magazine, in its February 1884 issue, gave Louisvillians Henry Schimpler and Orville M. Anderson credit for the first US century ride (a hundred miles within 24 hours) when they rode to Frankfort and back in December 1880.



In 1897, there were many bicycling clubs, and a section of Fourth Street had so many

bike shops it was called Bicycle Row. Women rode as well as men, and thousands cycled each evening on Southern Parkway.

Bicycle racing was a popular sport at the time. Louisville had its own bicycle races at the Southern Exposition in the 1880s, and a one-third-mile racing track with grandstand stood at Fontaine Ferry Park in the 1890s.

Cycling activity dropped sharply at the end of the 19th century. In the 1950's, bicycle shop owner Gil Morris began leading group rides, and in 1957, he and others revived the Louisville Wheelmen, now the Louisville Bicycle Club. Today, the club has more than 900 members coming from all parts of our region. The club's annual Old Kentucky Home Tour draws more than 1,000 cyclists, who ride from Louisville to Bardstown and back in two days each September.

“It would not be at all strange if history came to the conclusion that the perfection of the bicycle was the greatest incident of the nineteenth century.” ~ *Author Unknown*





ENCOURAGEMENT

EDUCATION

ENGINEERING

ENFORCEMENT

EVALUATION

BICYCLE FRIENDLY LOUISVILLE

F O R M O R E I N F O R M A T I O N

For updates on the Bicycle Friendly Louisville Plan, please visit
www.bikelouisville.com

O T H E R R E S O U R C E S

Louisville Metro Planning & Design Services

www.louisvilleky.gov/bikelouisville

Kentucky Bicycle and Pedestrian Program

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

www.transportation.ky.gov/planning/bike_walk/bikewalk.asp

Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals

www.apbp.org

Bicycling Information Center

www.bicyclinginfo.org

National Center for Bicycling and Walking

www.bikewalk.org

Louisville Bicycle Club

www.louisvillebicycleclub.org

Bicycling for Louisville

www.bicyclingforlouisville.org

TARC

www.ridetarc.org

League of American Bicyclists

www.bikeleague.org

Bikes Belong Coalition

www.bikesbelong.org

T H E D R E A M

As it becomes a healthier and more livable bicycle-friendly community, one with a dynamic economy and diverse transportation system, Louisville will reclaim its heritage as a center for bicycling.

~ Mayor Jerry E. Abramson

W W W . B I K E L O U I S V I L L E . C O M

“I thought of that while riding my bicycle.”

~ Albert Einstein